

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY WESTERN ISLANDS | CORMORANT II




INTRODUCTION

The Galapagos islands evoke notions of wilderness, mystery and tropical biosphere of incredible wildlife opportunities. In 8 days you will explore this pristine and incredible archipelago on board the Cormorant II, one of the most modern vessels to enter the Galapagos. From rich history to an indescribable diverse array of natural wildlife, the Galapagos superimposes the idea of a remote paradise.

* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. [Contact us](#) for more information.

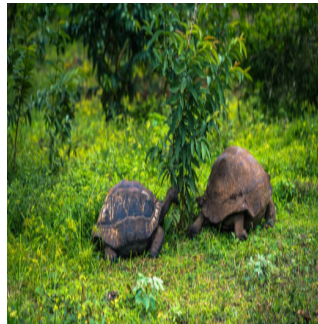
ITINERARY


TRIP CODE
ECRGC8B
DEPARTURE
Selected Saturdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador


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DAY 1: Arrive Baltra Airport & Santa Cruz

Morning flight from either Quito or Guayaquil to Galapagos Island. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by our representative and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing. In the afternoon, we'll head to the highlands of Santa Cruz, which offer a striking contrast to the dry, lower islands with their deep green color. The dominant vegetation here is the lush forest of Scalesia trees. We'll also explore the surreal experience of walking through over half a mile of underground lava tubes. Later, we'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, which is home to turtles ranging from new hatchlings as small as 3 inches to full-grown turtles over 4 feet long. We'll get the chance to see different subspecies of turtles interacting with each other, and even take photos with some of the older turtles that are accustomed to human interaction. The young turtles are kept at the station until they are strong enough to survive on their own in the wild.



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DAY 2: Tintoreras Islet & Wetlands

The Tintoreras Islet, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil, is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tip reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully. The Wetlands of Isabela Island are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path that winds through the swamps.



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DAY 3: Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay

Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted.

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkelling and viewing schools of colourful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.



DAY 4: Espinosa Point & Vicente Rock

In the morning you will arrive at Espinosa Point. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon you will make your way for Vicente Roca Point. Located on the north-western coast of the island and comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (sunfish) may be spotted here. This bay is great for diving and snorkeling.



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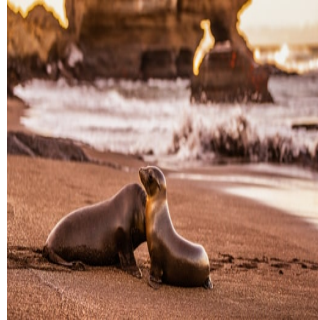
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DAY 5: Egas Port & Espumilla Beach


In the morning, we will head to Egas Port, which is also referred to as James Bay. This area is a habitat for the inquisitive Galapagos hawks and agile Galapagos lava lizards. The path leads to a stunning shoreline with exquisite tide pools and grottos teeming with wildlife. You can observe the Galapagos fur sea lions basking in the sun. Additionally, this spot offers fantastic snorkeling opportunities. In the afternoon, we will visit Espumilla Beach, which is well-known for its marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs. These crabs attract the hunting herons, who put on a fascinating display of predator and prey. With an abundance of marine life such as octopi, moray eels, and sharks, it's highly recommended to go snorkeling.



DAY 6: Bartolome Island & Sullivan Bay

In the morning, we will visit Bartholomew Island, which is renowned for its iconic Pinnacle Rock. This island is home to an extinct volcano, which features an array of volcanic formations in red, orange, black, and even green hues. The ascent to the summit of the volcano involves a staircase, which provides one of the best island views. The beach on the island is ideal for snorkeling and offers a chance to spot the Galapagos penguin. In the afternoon, we will make a coral beach landing, which leads to a vast lava field that stretches as far as the eye can see. As you navigate through the distinct types of lava, pahoehoe and 'a'a, you may spot plant life that has managed to emerge over the last century since the most recent volcanic eruption. This is a truly remarkable experience to observe the volcanic terrain up close and personal.

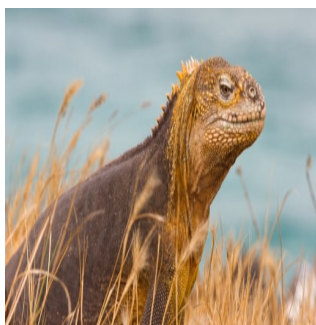



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DAY 7: Chinese Hat & Dragon Hill

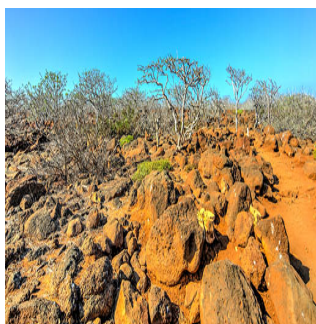
In the morning, we will set off to explore a small islet located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. This islet, known for its distinct summit shape, is a geological wonderland waiting to be explored. You'll have the chance to see various fascinating formations, including lava tubes and lava flows. The island is also home to an array of unique wildlife, such as the marine iguana and lava lizard, which are sure to amaze you. Keep your eyes peeled for the incredible Galapagos hawk, which often flies overhead, and the curious Galapagos fur sea lion, which basks on the surrounding rocks. After an exciting morning of exploration, we will head to Dragon Hill, one of the newest visitor sites accessible to tourists in the Galapagos Islands. This magnificent site, situated on Santa Cruz Island, boasts a beautiful walking trail that leads you along a pristine beach and through a lush landscape filled with towering cacti. The trail culminates at the top of a hill, where you will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the island and the surrounding sea. Along the way, keep an eye out for the colorful flamingos, pintail ducks, and land iguanas that can be spotted around the lagoon. This is an unforgettable experience that provides a unique insight into the diverse flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands.



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DAY 8: North Seymour Island & Departure


In the morning you will arrive at North Seymour Island. Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. Afterward, you will be transferred to Baltra Airport where you will board your departing flight. *Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, safety concerns, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of passengers as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the time or nature of visits. Your guide and captain will always Endeavor to select the best itinerary within these limits



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS Cabin Accommodation on board ship All meals whilst on board Guiding and lectures by bilingual national park guide Airport transfers in Galapagos Captain’s welcome and farewell cocktail Soft drinks Use of snorkelling equipment, underwater camera and wetsuit VIP lounge at Galapagos airports for departure flight 2 glasses of house wine per meal</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS International flights Flights to/from Galapagos Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person - Subject to change) Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Alcoholic drinks Travel and medical insurance Personal expenses Tips</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. Please note a complimentary pre-cruise night accommodation in Quito or Guayaquil is only available when purchasing Roundtrip airfare from operator.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason,

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all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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